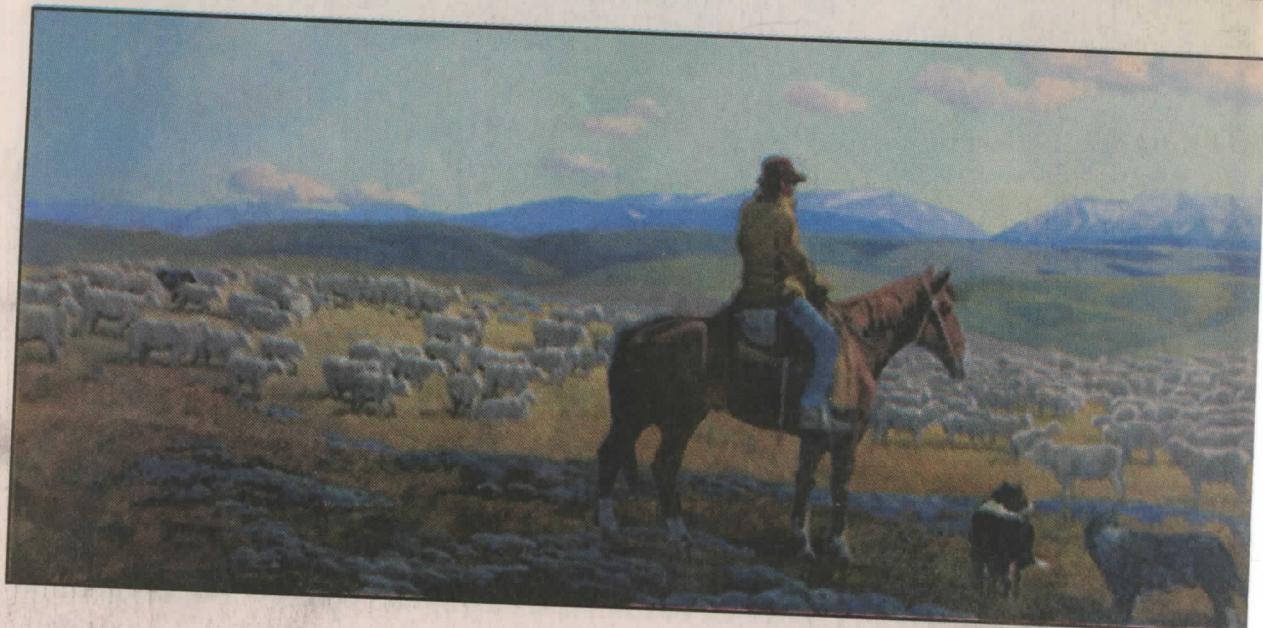


MARCH 23, 2005



Fillerup UVSC Mural Unveiling Set for April

BY MEREDITH
BROWN
Wave Staff Writer

The Fillerup family has done it again! Buffalo Bill's Artist of the Year Mel Fillerup, father of local sculptor, Peter Fillerup is preparing to unveil



Mel Fillerup

his most recent projects at the Midway Art Show on April 15 at the Wasatch Campus Utah Valley State College (UVSC). The show begins at 7 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Fillerup has painted two masterpieces. The "High Uintas" is a beautiful depiction of the Uinta Mountains and to Mel Fillerup it represents his four great-grandparents who crossed the plains and settled, not only their family but also their Latter-day Saint religion in the West.

Did You Know



Gwen Smith

This painting will be given to UVSC as a gift, as well as another painting labeled the "Wasatch Sheep Camp." This painting is 27-feet wide and 7-feet high.

Fillerup said it repre-



sents the great history of sheep ranching in the Wasatch Valley.

Originally, Fillerup estimated that the two projects would only take him four months to complete; he has now been working on them for a year.

The good news, he's ready to reveal them to the public.

One year ago Mel Fillerup, Gwen Smith, and their committee were having a dinner to begin their project, and to also visit with some local sheep

SEE "FILLERUP" ON PAGE C4

Fillerup...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

ranchers to hear their stories to gain inspiration for the mural. Fillerup, Smith, and committee members said they realized that there was a rich history here that was going to be lost unless it was recorded. So in addition to the sheep mural, they decided to begin a historical book on sheep ranching – after all more sheep have been shipped out of the Heber Valley than anywhere in the nation.

Gwen Smith has interviewed over 30 ranchers and collected

Le
W
Ki
Ct

pictures from all over Utah. They hope to compile the book within the next three years and also hope that people from the community will come forth with pictures and stories of friends and family members were involved in sheep ranching. They won't have the entire story, until each rancher adds his/her part, Smith said.

Mel Fillerup began his love of art at a young age when a family friend gave him his first set of paints. He found what he thought to be just a hobby, and went on to study at the

University of Wyoming.

He was then called off to fight in World War II at Pearl Harbor and in the Philippines. When he returned home he married his sweetheart, Ruth.

Being from a strong Mormon background, he still had the desire to serve a mission. He was able to receive permission to go even though he was married and he went off to serve a two-year mission in Ireland. He wrote his wife every week and on every envelope he painted a watercolor scene of the area in which he was living in.

This became a tradition. When he and his wife years went on to serve in the Portugal South mission, the Portugal West mission, and the New Jersey Spanish speaking mission, they continued sending Fillerup's signature envelopes.

The Fillerups wrote to their children and grandchildren and on every envelope there is a picture that depicts something from the area in which they were serv-

KTMP Radio is Business of

BY ROBIN JOHNSON
Wave Staff Writer

Community is the driving force behind the recent growth at Heber City's KTMP radio station, owned by Creek Broadcasting Corp. Business is so good the station recently relocated to 260 North Main Street.

A remodeled front room was converted into a state of the art

Robby Wright and Richard Espinoza, on-air personalities, take turns sitting at the new desk, talking to Wasatch and Summit County listeners, playing country music and commercials and watching the action on Main Street.

Serving the community at KTMP radio is a team effort. From the station's owners to the station's sales representati-

ing. Fillerup said, "Everything good that has happened in our lives is because we went on those missions."

When Fillerup returned from his first mission in Ireland, he went on to study law and he practiced law for 25 years after he graduated from law school.

He began painting again as a release from the demands of his job. He entered his paintings into various local art shows and contests, and he won all of them. Before he knew it, he had begun a second career, "And I've never turned back since then," he said.

With seven children and 39 grandchildren, Mel Fillerup has a lot of love and support that encourages him to keep using his natural talent. Each child has an art box. Although many have chosen different careers, Fillerup said that all of them could still paint or draw something valuable.

Also, as another Fillerup tradition, he paints each child something for Christmas.

My station has an authentic

Of course, Mel Fillerup's son Peter Fillerup continued the traditions of his father and has contributed many beautiful works of art to the Heber Valley.

Fillerup said Peter used to paint with him, and when they would go on trips, he would give Peter some clay to entertain himself with. Peter soon discovered his love of sculpting.

The father and son began to enter shows together, and Peter went on to study art at BYU-Idaho. He also received an apprenticeship with Avard Fairbanks, and the rest is history, as they say.

Peter and his wife, Linda, have been in the Heber Valley for 12 years. Although his parents still reside in Cody, WY, they have relocated to Heber for the past year in a studio that Peter built for them, so they can work on UVSC murals.

Gwen Smith became close with the Fillerup family as she was working on a project in Heber City's Main Street Park while Peter was working on his bronze sculpture of William Walls titled, "Journey's End," for the Centennial celebration. They have been close friends ever since.

Smith has played a large role in the public relations side of the upcoming art show. As an artist herself she hopes to enter at least one piece of art in to the show on

April 15.

Along with Gwen Smith and the Fillerup family, there are many others on the committee who have contributed time, money, and effort to be able to give these beautiful murals to the college. The other committee members are J.D. Davidson, Pam Gardner, Lynn Adams, Deb Anderson, Dick Baily, Carl Bechtold, Nadine Gilmore, Gary Lloyd, Lucille Tuttle, Doug Livingston, and Marcy McIntosh.

Each mural is valued at over \$100,000 each, and the committee is still trying to raise about \$10,000 to finishing paying for them.

The Fillerup family, Gwen Smith and the committee are very excited about both murals and the upcoming book. Peter Fillerup said,

"We hope that these murals will be a significant piece of work that the community and the students will enjoy for years to come. We are so proud to have this campus here."

Anyone wishing to contribute money or information to either the murals or the upcoming book on the history of sheep-farming, should contact Gwen Smith or send to: The Utah Valley State College Wasatch Campus Enhancement Program, 3111 N College Way, Heber City, UT 84037